

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 8

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING (MS 823)

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*Flex your power!
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State Route 58 Expressway Project**

October 4, 2010

Dear Resident:

On behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Department) we are writing to provide an update on the proposed widening and realignment of State Route 58 (SR-58), through the community of Hinkley. In May 2007, the Department initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the current project.

Since initiation of the project four public meetings have been held. The most recent Public Information Meeting was held at Hinkley School on September 22, 2010. From the meetings, public scoping comments revealed the following community concerns: motorist/pedestrian safety, project costs, effects to existing neighborhoods/businesses, noise levels, impact areas needed for interchanges, community bisection, local circulation, overpasses for safety/circulation, the existing PG&E plume, cumulative impacts, construction impacts, truck traffic, project design, biological impacts to plants/animals, air quality, historic resources, visual impacts, right-of-way affects on properties, turning movements, and reduction of the project footprint.

In addition to public comments the Department received comments from resource agencies related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). NEPA and CEQA laws require government agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects. Since the initiation of the environmental document process the Department has met with resource agencies in order to discuss project features and reduce project impacts. As technical studies progressed the question arose as to whether or not there was a need for interchanges at Valley View Road, Hinkley Road, Summerset Road, and Lenwood Road.

Interchanges require a level of traffic demand that justifies their construction on projects. Results of the traffic study conducted by the Department found that four interchanges, within the limits of the proposed project, were not warranted due to existing and projected traffic volumes. Further, in analyzing the traffic study for the proposed project, Department goals were to minimize project impacts, reduce right-of-way affects, reduce the project footprint, and meet traffic circulation requirements for the community of Hinkley. In order to meet these goals the interchanges at Valley View Road and Summerset Road were eliminated. The proposed interchanges at Lenwood Road and Hinkley Road will remain. Therefore, even though there was a down scoping of the project, the modified project features still enable the Department to meet the purpose and need of the project.

In addition to the elimination of the interchanges at Valley View Road and Summerset Road, Hydrology studies revealed the need to incorporate detention basins on each of the alternatives under analysis. Detention basins are storm water best management practices (BMPs) that provide

general flood protection and also control runoff resulting from a storm whose intensity can be expected to occur once every hundred years. The basins are designed so that storm water will pass beneath the highway without overtopping the roadway surface. As the analysis for the proposed project moves forward Department staff remains focused on balancing community concerns and affected resources, while meeting the purpose and need of the proposed project.

Presently, Department staff are working towards completing the Draft Environmental Document (DED) for the project. Details regarding availability for review of the DED will be forwarded to the community and published in newspaper ads. There will be an opportunity for public comment and an Open Forum Public Hearing will be scheduled. Caltrans would like to thank you for your time and participation in this process.

For more information regarding the proposed locations of the detention basins for the alternatives under analysis, visit the project Website at:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/projects/san_bernardino/sr58/hinkley/index.htm

If you require additional information, please contact Irene Dominguez at 909-388-7068. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Russell Williams
Office Chief, San Bernardino County
Environmental Studies/Support A

bc: File

Irene Dominguez/id